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Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8002

C O N F I D E N T I AL CAIRO 5581

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP
SUBJ: PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO U.S.
E X D I S
1. A/DCM WAS REQUESTED TO CALL AT MFA BY AMBASSADOR TUHAMI, DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, ON JULY 27. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, AT WHICH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER SHILBAYA WAS ALSO PRESENT, VARIOUS MATTERS CONCERNING PRESIDENT SADAT'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO THE U.S. WERE RAISED. TUHAMI OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING HE WISHED THIS TO BE AN INITIAL INFORMAL TALK CONCERNING FUTURE PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT. HE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL INVITATION FOR SADAT TO SPEAK AT VARIOUS PLACES IN THE U.S. AMONG THESE WERE THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, BOTH IN SAN FRANCISCO. HE ASKED OUR OPINION OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

2. TUHAMI THEN MENTIONED THAT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAD ALSO RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM RABBI BARUCH KORF OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF CONNECTICUT FOR FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY. TUHAMI SAID THAT THE LATTER INVITATION HAD BEEN POLITELY REFUSED BY AMBASSADOR GHORBAL WHEN HE LEARNED THAT KORF HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE ZIONIST AND A MEMBER OF THE STERN GANG IN THE LATE 40'S GHORBAL HAD INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD SO MANY COMMITMENTS HE SIMPLY COULD NOT ACCEPT ALL THE INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO HIM. A COPY OF THIS REFUSAL, IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, QUOTE WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO
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THE WHITE HOUSE UNQUOTE. TUHAMI RAISED QUESTIONS CON-

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CERNING PRESIDENT SADAT'S ITINERARY IN U.S. ASKING WHETHER IT WOULD BE USERUL TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO VISIT HOUSTON, TEXAS. IN THIS CONTEXT TUHAMI AND SHILBAYA QUERIED AS TO WHETHER PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT SADAT ON PORTIONS OF THE TRIP.

3. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT BEFORE DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL INVITATIONS OR POSSIBLE POINTS IN THE ITINERARY,IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO LOOK AT THE VISIT IN ITS BROADEST ASPECTS, OBTAIN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION AND ADVICE FROM THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND FROM THE U.S. SIDE IN WASHINGTON, WHICH HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE WIT PLANING HIGH LEVEL VISITS. ONCE WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE TTALITY OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM, INDIVIDUAL INVITATIONS AND POINTS IN THE ITINERARY COULD BE REFINED. WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT NIXON ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT SADAT ON ANY PORTION OF THE VISIT, THE A/DCM WAS NON-COMMITTAL. HE DID,HOWEVER, MAKE REFERENCE TO THE EXTREMELY HECTIC PACE OF THE WASHINGTON SCENE IN THE FALL AND THE VITALLY IMPORTANT MATTERS BEFORE THE CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME. ALTHOUGH DONE VERY TACTFULLY, WE ARE NOW APPARENTLY RECEIVING INITIAL INDICATIONS OF AN EGYPTIAN EXPECTATION THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECIPROCATE IN SOME, EVEN THOUGH SMALL MEASURE, FOR THE VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/: EXDIS CAPTION INSERTED PER INSTRUCTIONS S/S-O. MR. SARROS.

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